Hitler and the Nazis were accused of innumerable unspeakable horrors. Even if true (I here refer the reader to Did Six Million Really Die?), were they the first and only in modern history to commit such atrocities? Hitler and his cohorts couldn’t have come up, on their own, with all the crimes with which they were accused, and there was a mentor readily at hand to instruct them, Stalin. Indeed, Stalin’s antics before, during and after WWII made the Nazis look like a bunch of Girl Guides at a Sunday School picnic! Of course the Allies, including the Soviets, could do no wrong. History, as it is said, is written by the conquerors. Laws were passed that immunized Allied nations from prosecution for the commission of acts that if committed by the Nazis could be charged against the Germans as Crimes Against Humanity. There is nothing like a hypocritical double standard to assuage your conscience. Even before the end of the Second World War, as the Soviets were
pushing back the Germans along the Eastern Front, the cry could be heard in the newly Soviet occupied countries, “Give us back the Germans!” The soldiers of the Red Army were often uneducated or even illiterate, vulgar, undisciplined brutal thugs. The German soldier however, was disciplined, comparatively well educated, often urbane and under orders to be polite, courteous and law abiding. These orders were strictly enforced. The Soviet soldiers were not, however, the only Allied Service Men guilty of various crimes against the populations of liberated nations. I could compile a lengthy list, but instead I’ll proceed on a personal note.

This writer is a Norwegian born Canadian. The Norwegians, for the most part, hated the occupying Germans. I was brought up with stories about the Partisans, the Underground and relatives who lost their lives in the struggle against the German occupying Forces and the Quislings.

For a short time, after the surrender of the Nazis, Norway was occupied by Allied Forces, mostly Brits and Yanks. During this short, friendly occupation, even the staid Norwegians were heard to mutter beneath their breath that they had, in many ways, been better off under the Nazis! At least the SS maintained law and order.

More Norwegian women were raped and there were more crimes against persons and property by occupying Forces during this short friendly occupation than during the entire Nazi occupation. People were afraid to go out at night. Allied soldiers would get into the Nazi Officer’s Mess liquor supplies, and roaring drunk, waving their liberated bottles of booze, would tear around town in their jeeps or on their motorcycles, mowing down any hapless pedestrian who was unfortunate enough to get in their way. Their behaviour was less than exemplary!

It makes one wonder who were the good guys and who the bad, regardless of what the history books say.